

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division**

UNITED STATES, et al.,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
v.)	No. 1:23-cv-00108-LMB-JFA
)	
GOOGLE LLC,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS’ MOTION TO SEAL

Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 5, Plaintiffs, through their undersigned counsel, hereby respectfully submit the instant memorandum of law in support of their motion to seal portions of their Response to Google’s Motion to Strike Jury Demand and to Dismiss, ECF No. 628. The redacted portions of the memorandum contain information designated by Defendant as confidential or highly confidential under the protective order (ECF No. 203). The unredacted exhibit has been filed electronically using the sealed filing events at ECF No. 690.

The redacted portion of Plaintiffs’ memorandum references certain numerical calculations derived from information that Google has designated as confidential or highly confidential. But for the requirements of the Protective Order, Plaintiffs would not seek to seal these portions of the exhibit.

Public access to judicial records is “protected both by the common law and the First Amendment.” *Stone v. Univ. of Md. Med. Sys. Corp.*, 855 F.2d 178, 180 (4th Cir. 1988). “The common law presumes a right of the public to inspect and copy ‘all judicial records and documents.’” *Id.* (quoting *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978)). The common law presumption in favor of public access can be overcome only by a showing that a litigant has “some significant interest that outweighs the presumption.” *Rushford v. New Yorker*

Magazine, Inc., 846 F.2d 249, 253 (4th Cir. 1988). Accordingly, before ordering the sealing of a document, a district court must “(1) provide public notice of the request to seal and allow interested parties a reasonable opportunity to object, (2) consider less drastic alternatives to sealing the document[], and (3) provide specific reasons and factual findings supporting its decision to seal the document[] and for rejecting the alternatives.” *Ashcraft v. Conoco, Inc.*, 218 F.3d 288, 302 (4th Cir. 2000); *see also* Local Civ. R. 5(C).

Plaintiffs do not believe the information redacted from their memorandum is of a type that outweighs the presumption in favor of public access. Nonetheless, because the material was designated as confidential or highly confidential by Google, Plaintiffs have filed the present motion in accordance with their obligations under the Protective Order. As stated in the notice filed concurrently with this memorandum, any interested member of the public and any other party may indicate their position on the motion.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court seal ECF No. 690, and permit the redacted version of Plaintiffs’ Memorandum in Opposition (ECF No.688) to remain on the public docket.

Dated: May 30, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

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